



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - July 30, 2003

- ***In the West***, monsoon showers continue to provide limited drought relief in the ***Four Corners region***, although serious water-supply concerns persist. Meanwhile, a record-setting heat wave persists across the ***northern Rockies*** and the ***Northwest***, hampering wildfire containment efforts, straining drought-reduced irrigation supplies, and severely stressing immature, dryland crops.
- ***On the Plains***, temperatures have returned to more favorable levels for summer crop development. However, soil moisture shortages persist in nearly all areas except the ***eastern Dakotas***, despite recent and ongoing showers associated with several cold front passages.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, soil moisture and temperatures continue to favor corn and soybean development. Today's high temperatures are forecast to remain below 90 degrees F. Problem spots related to diminishing moisture reserves are isolated and generally confined to the ***southwestern Corn Belt*** (mostly along, south, and west of the ***Missouri River***) and the ***Great Lakes region*** (parts of ***Wisconsin*** and ***Michigan***).
- ***In the South***, warm weather and scattered showers continue to promote the development and maturation of summer crops.

Outlook: A slow-moving storm system will trigger showers and thunderstorms, some severe, across the ***upper Midwest***, while dry weather prevails across the ***Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic States***. Farther south, warm, humid air will lead to locally heavy showers across ***the southeastern Quarter of the Nation***, with moisture spreading north into ***southern portions of the Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic*** by week's end. Out ***west***, monsoon showers will spread from the ***Southwest into the Great Basin***, while dry, hot conditions persist in the ***northern Rockies***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for August 4-8 features above-normal temperatures in ***the northwestern quarter of the Nation, southern Plains, and New England***. Subnormal readings are expected in ***the southeastern quarter of the U.S.*** Wetter-than-normal conditions are forecast in the ***north-central Intermountain West, central Rockies and High Plains, southern Great Plains, and New England***, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected in ***western Washington, upper Missouri Valley, upper Midwest, and Great Lakes region***.

Contact: Mark Brusberg, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-3508)